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Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

International Day of the Tropics

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for their proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, which state that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements necessary for its organization and financing have been made,

Recognizing that tropical nations have made significant progress, but face a variety of challenges that demand focused attention across a range of development indicators and data in order to achieve sustainable development,[1]

Noting that the tropics, as a region, account for 40 per cent of the world's total surface area and are host to approximately 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity and much of its language and cultural diversity,

Recognizing the specific challenges faced by tropical areas, the far-reaching implications of the issues affecting the world's tropical zone and the need, at all levels, to raise awareness and to underline the important role that countries in the tropics will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Decides* to designate 29 June as the International Day of the Tropics;

[1] In this regard, the Government of Australia draws attention to the contribution made by the State of the Tropics project.

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2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to observe the International Day of the Tropics in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the tropics, the specific challenges that they face and the emerging opportunities that they present;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, for appropriate observance.